REMARKS

Claims 1-10, as amended, remain herein.

Minor, editorial changes have been made in claim 1.

1. Claims 1, 2, 4-9 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gastouniotis et al. U.S. Patent 5,438,329 and Tang et al. U.S. Patent 6,437,095. Claim 11 was cancelled in the amendment filed May 10, 2004.

The presently claimed access system includes at least one mobile device having a mobile communication means, at least one client automatic control equipment having a client communication means, or a server automatic control equipment having a server communication means, wherein the client communication means has a link mechanism containing (1) a detection means for detecting presence of at least one server automatic control equipment and (2) a service means for communication with the identified server automatic control equipment. This arrangement is nowhere disclosed or suggested in the cited references.

Gastouniotis '329, column 4, lines 9-61, describes remotely located instrument reading units composed of instrument links 2

associated with data gathering device 4 such as a utility meter (column 4, lines 9-14). The system also includes at least one remote station 6 that interrogates instrument link 2/utility meter 4 and separately receives the transmitted output from each data link (column 4, lines 15-17) in response to the interrogation. As illustrated in Gastouniotis '329, Fig. 1, an RF signal 10a is sent out by remote station 6 to each link 2/utility meter 4 to obtain information acquired by the utility meter. Thus, remote station 6 acts as a "client" by transmitting a request, and link 2/utility meter 4 acts as a "server" by responding to the request by transmitting a response. While both remote station 6 and link 2/utility meter 4 have two-way communication capability, the initial RF signal "wakes up" and interrogates link 2/utility meter 4, and each link 2/utility meter 4 responds back to remote station 6 with a reply message (column 4, lines 47-54). This operation is opposite to that of the access system recited in applicants' claim 1, which recites:

> each of said ... client communication means comprises a link mechanism (wherein) the link mechanism comprises a detection means for detecting presence of at least one server automatic control equipment.

Each client communication means includes means for detecting the server automatic control equipment, i.e., detecting an initial "wake up" transmitted by the server automatic control equipment. Gastouniotis '329 does not disclose a client communication means having means for detecting a server, but instead, describes the client transmitting an interrogation, which is detected by the server, i.e., remote station 6 (client) transmitting an initial RF signal that wakes up and interrogates instrument link 2 of utility meter 4 (server). Gastouniotis '329 does not disclose the utility meter detecting the presence of the remote station, i.e., Gastouniotis '329 does not disclose client communication means with a link mechanism, wherein the link mechanism include a detection means for detecting the presence of at least one server automatic control equipment, as recited in applicants' claim 1.

Tang '095 is said to teach a server communication means utilizing the Bluetooth protocol. However, Tang '095 does not overcome the above-explained deficiencies of Gastouniotis '329.

For the foregoing reasons, neither Gastouniotis '329 nor Tang '095 contains any teaching, suggestion, reason, motivation

or incentive that would have led one of ordinary skill in the art to applicants' claimed invention. Nor is there any disclosure or teaching in either of these references that would have suggested the desirability of combining any portions thereof effectively to suggest applicants' presently claimed invention. Claims 2 and 4-9, which depend from claim 1, are allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

2. Claims 3 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gastouniotis '329, Tang '095 and de Silva et al. U.S. Patent 6,564,320.

Claims 3 and 10, which depend from claim 1, are allowable for the reasons given previously for the allowance of claim 1.

Moreover, the Examiner admits that neither Gastouniotis '329 nor Tang '095 disclose the same item of automatic control equipment may comprise server communication means to be able to perform a server function and a client function. De Silva '320 is cited to provide such a teaching. However, de Silva '320

does not overcome the already noted deficiencies of Gastouniotis '329 and Tang '095.

All claims 1-10 are now proper in form and patentably distinguished over all grounds of rejection stated in the Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of all claims 1-10 is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the applicants would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' undersigned representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.

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Date

Charles A. Wendel
Registration No. 24,453
Robert N. Wieland
Registration No. 40,225

CAW:RNW/mhs

Attorney Docket No.: SCHN:002

PARKHURST & WENDEL, L.L.P.
1421 Prince Street, Suite 210
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-2805
Telephone: (703) 739-0220